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*Rowland Evans and Robert Novak*

## Bombarding the Embassy Again

The Soviet Union has resumed full-scale microwave bombardment of the U.S. embassy in Moscow at a level unsafe for American personnel—an unannounced move spelling failure for Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's efforts to smooth over an exceedingly ugly dispute through "quiet diplomacy."

As we reported a month ago, the Ford administration early this year secretly removed some electronics intelligence equipment from the embassy roof in return for reduced Soviet microwave bombardment. It worked—for a while. The bombardment, obviously a countermeasure against U.S. electronic spying, was reduced in duration and intensity. But within the last month, the Russians returned to around-the-clock, full-force microwave bombardment.

This probably creates electromagnetic radiation at the embassy higher than maximum safety levels, causing Dr. Kissinger's critics within the administration to say I told you so. These officials had felt removing spy equipment was a blunder from any standpoint. If the U.S. were really crippling its intelligence capability, this would be appeasement. If the U.S. were only pretending, the Russians would not be fooled for long.

In fact, the latter may have happened. Officials here believe the Soviets resumed microwave countermeasures because they concluded the equipment removed from the roof was of no great importance.

Accordingly, hard-liners in the administration feel now is the time for what should have been done originally: to publicly demand that the Kremlin follow civilized behavior by shutting off the microwave machine.

With President Ford and his inner circle immobilized for non-campaign activity by Ronald Reagan's challenge, nothing is being done about the Moscow situation. Ironically, if Mr. Ford took a hard line, he might score an effective counterthrust against Reagan's Panama attack.

For several minutes after President Ford telephoned her at 2:30 on Sunday afternoon, March 28, Mrs. Jenkins Healy, a Reagan-leaning Republican just elected GOP County Chairman in Natchez, Miss., was sure she was talking to an impostor.

But after 20 minutes on the phone, just two weeks before the Mississippi Republican Convention selected the delegation—which included Mrs. Healy—to the presidential convention, Gail Healy was convinced it was, indeed, none other than Gerald R. Ford. That was the strongest sign yet of Mr. Ford's now stroking even low-level Republicans to advance his cause against Ronald Reagan.

The President congratulated Mrs. Healy for her election the previous day as Adams County Chairman. When she told him she had not publicly declared her preference between him and Reagan, Mr. Ford asked how the trees were "blowing in the wind." Toward Reagan, she replied. Mr. Ford asked, "Are you in that tree yourself?" Mrs. Healy ducked, saying she would definitely support the party's nominee, whoever he is.

For that answer, a laughing Mr. Ford replied, Mrs. Healy deserved appointment to the diplomatic corps. In fact, however, she is a Reaganite of long standing.

Two weeks later, the Mississippi state convention justified the President's concern. It not only gave Reagan a 2-to-1 margin over Mr. Ford among the 30 convention delegates, but also voted the unit rule—assuring that if Reagan is still a candidate at Kansas City, he will get all 30 first-ballot votes.

A footnote: another Reagan-leaning Mississippi Republican personally wooed by the President was Kirk Fordyce, longtime party leader in Vicksburg. When Fordyce met the President in Washington during the Associated General Contractors convention, Mr. Ford made a polite but strong pitch for his support at the state convention. Fordyce, a longtime Reaganite, was charmed—but not changed.

Rep. Morris Udall's fading presidential prospects became even less visible when he recently backed up his brother Stewart and fired Boston-based political consultant John Martilla, central cog in the Udall campaign.

The candidate sadly told Martilla he "had to side with" his brother, former Secretary of the Interior and overall campaign manager, in a bitter tactical dispute. Martilla wanted concentration on television advertising; Stewart Udall wanted money put into organization (and infuriated the Martilla team by pulling his brother's TV ads off the air three days before the Wisconsin primary).

Though the sacking settled the dispute for the Pennsylvania campaign, it is at the cost of the highly skilled services of Martilla (who is billing Udall for nearly \$200,000).

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